

The American Socialist

Official Organ of the Socialist Party of the United States.

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SATURDAY, APRIL 10th, 1915.

NEWS OF THE WEEK

Here is all the week's news worth while boiled down for workers so busy fighting for Socialism they do not have time to read the daily capitalist press.

TUESDAY, MARCH 30.

Germany plans to surround British Isles with a belt of mines and iron wire. The British government has ordered the evacuation of the Channel Islands.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31.

King George of England, orders flight against Germany. German troops have entered the Belgian city of Antwerp.

THURSDAY, APRIL 1.

German submarines operating off Beatty Head and near more merchant vessels with loss of lives.

FRIDAY, APRIL 2.

Labor in New York City urged world conference to call for peace.

SATURDAY, APRIL 3.

American steamship sunk by mine in the North Sea. Crew reported missing.

SUNDAY, APRIL 4.

President Wilson's hope of being inaugurated in October is fading.

MONDAY, APRIL 5.

Report news in Japan Wilson's defeat of Germany is now very much threatened.

OTIS IS FRIGHTENED.

All Socialists remember Harrison Gray Otis, the rampaging editor and owner of the Los Angeles Times.

Like many other foes of Socialism he can see nothing but good in the Socialist movement coming out of the European war. He shrieks, "EUROPEAN ARMAGNEDON."

He believes in the private ownership of everything. He has even gone so far as to deny sane and intelligent people the right to think. Out in Los Angeles Otis wants a monopoly on the right to think for himself.

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THE GINGER JAR

By WM. FRANCIS BARNARD

Knitting for the Poles is going on in Sing Sing. Who knits for the families of the convicts?

War and army contract work were born twins.

Mr. Morgan is in Europe selling American neutrality to the highest bidder.

Every day is April Fool's day for the common people.

Rothschild is dead; but his power over world lives on to oppress the human race.

There will be no real peace 'till the class struggle is at an end.

Dr. San Yui Sen fears that the government of Japan means to kill the Chinese republic.

The class struggle is a struggle between those who own the jobs and those who own their labor power and nothing else.

Socialism is a social method of securing to the working class the full product of its toil.

The capitalists do not object to a full crew law in their field; they are there with their footmen and chauffeurs.

Definitions according to the Code. Morality: something the other fellow needs.

Reputation: varnish made of wealth.

Honesty: something to praise, so that they will trust you to rob them.

Fairness: putting it over nicely.

Business: easy money.

A Buffalo newspaper through a mistake in the type speaks of President Wilson's "great moral force" as a "great moral force."

President Wilson says war will not end as long as men hate each other. Competition is the best of mothers of hate.

No sir; we can't deliver Socialism to you until you put in your order. What are you using now, Hops?

Good times are coming; they are only just on the other side of the solar system.

Capitalists figure that the big war loans will be paid by big war loans.

NO WAR DANGER UNLESS WE CHOOSE TO MAKE WAR

Continued from Page One.

general, not for war against a particular nation, but war against all comers, we may conceive of a conflict not only with a first class foreign power, but with a combination of powers.

Against Germany may turn against us, and Germany herself may join in the attack. War makes even queerer bed-fellows than politics as recent events have amply demonstrated.

To be fully prepared for any war we must have land forces surpassing those of Germany and a navy superior to that of Great Britain. And as the powers of Europe increase and improve their military and naval forces, we must keep pace with them.

Every dreadnaught built becomes obsolete in a few years, and new inventions against us in a while render our military equipments and armament into the scrapheap. There is no stop or pause in the ever increasing armaments of military preparation.

A nation that once allows itself to be drawn into the vortex of military rivalry cannot resist, cannot evade. When Russia began to choke under the intolerable load of militarism, Czar Nicholas cried out in vain for a general limitation of armaments.

When the naval rivalry between Great Britain and Germany reached the breaking point, the former, having without success for a "naval holiday," military "powers" are the slaves of the military system.

WILHELMINE DANGER REAL. AND THE danger of militarism to our country is not imaginary, but terribly real. In 1907 we spent on our army and navy less than \$75,000,000. To-day we have raised that sum to more than \$200,000,000, an increase of about 250%.

And now we are again asked to double or triple our military burdens. And for what? For a phantom fear, for the breed of hysterical imaginations.

The modern military propaganda, the "war" which has received its main impetus from the war in Europe. But that war is rather a guaranty of peace than a menace to us. Its conclusion will leave the military powers of Europe exhausted and in anything but a bellicose spirit. History teaches us that every great war is followed by a long era of peace.

Never again will the world be plunged into the horrors of all that. Their very eyes will encounter nothing but ruin and desolation in Europe, they will turn to us as the great republic of the world, which alone of all powerful nations has managed to maintain peace. They will look to us for comfort, for hope.

What shall be our answer, Mr. Gardner? Shall it be the same vicious noise of sabres and guns, or shall it be a message of peace, a promise of a better, better, happier world for the future? Let it be peace.

NEVER BECOME A FIRST-CLASS MILITARY POWER. LET US STOP OUR ARMEDNESS, OUR GREY, AND ASPIRATION ON MAKING OUR COUNTRY THE FIRST GREAT PEACE POWER OF THE WORLD.

THE NEW YORK CALL. THE MILWAUKEE LEADER. THE AMERICAN SOCIALIST and many other papers, which are really Party property, have constantly to appeal for aid, for subscriptions and for boosters, to help them along.

Despite the fact that none of them have achieved anywhere near the success of several papers privately owned and conducted but supported wholly by the energy and money of the party membership.

This would be well enough in an anarchist organization but it is utter madness in a Party that hopes to build up an immense political organization with millions of devoted adherents.

In several other countries the locals are instructed to pay no attention to private concerns appealing to the party membership for funds. Unless a paper is definitely adopted as the official organ of the Party it cannot appeal to the party membership for funds.

Private concerns are looked upon with suspicion because it is known that they cannot be controlled by the Party and that after all many of them are chiefly interested in promoting the welfare of those who own them.

All the above matters should be discussed in our conferences and Party meetings. The time has arrived when we should lay out certain rules and regulations to prevent every knight errand and free lance from milking the party membership for the benefit of any scheme, business, or paper that he may wish to promote.

Our national press need all our funds and all our energies. Above all we should build them up, for after all they are ours, and we have the means to control them in our own hands.

THE UNITED STATES CAN AMERICAN SOCIALIST 4 YEARS \$1.00.

SUGGESTIONS AND WARNINGS FROM OTHER LANDS

By WALTER THOMAS MILLS

Author of "The Struggle for Existence," and just returned from a five years' lecture tour around the world.

NO. 2. UNITY - NOT FUSION.

IN 1890 there was a great strike in both New Zealand and Australia. Prior to that time there had been almost no consolidation of the labor organizations into national bodies, nor had they been particularly active in politics.

The political power was used everywhere to break the strike and the weakness of unorganized local trade unions in a great labor war was made evident to everybody.

Immediately the unions sought for consolidation of their local bodies into national ones. The national federations were made factors of importance in each country, and everywhere labor appealed to the ballot box to secure control of the public powers which had been used to defeat them in an industrial contest.

In Australia this movement was an independent one at the start and in the sense in which the term fusion is used in America, fusion has never been undertaken by labor at any time in Australia.

AS A MINORITY party labor at once became an important factor in the life of the country and that party has steadily and constantly advanced until Australia now has the most progressive government any where in the world with three of its six states and the national government completely under the control of labor.

Constitutional restrictions are being removed and when this is accomplished the co-operative commonwealth will proceed with its own construction as rapidly as organization and development can make that construction possible.

In New Zealand the labor movement fused with the liberal party, thereby the minority and seeking office. The labor-liberal combination secured control of the government the first election held after the great strike of 1890.

For the next ten years labor was the senior partner in that combination and no where in history can a like record be found of industrial and political progress in the behalf of the useful people of any country. During this time all of the legislative and administrative undertakings, which have made New Zealand really famous, were undertaken.

The population, the mileage of the railways, the tonnage carried, the values of exports and imports, the acreage under cultivation, the improved and the unimproved land values, and the total annual wealth produced all increased during this period from 15 to 54 per cent, while at no time in the history of the country was there such a marked increase both in the numbers and in the intelligence and character of its immigrants.

Measured by every possible standard it was a period of unequalled prosperity and all this was accomplished during the nineties. That was the very time when all the rest of the earth was suffering from industrial and commercial ruin and from unequalled social distress.

STILL THIS movement had the seeds of its own destruction in the midst of it. The anti-labor-liberal wing of the combination sought and secured large re-inforcement from the Tory party.

The delivery of labor was a slower but a sure winner. In Australia it has created the most progressive of all English speaking governments. A commanding force ever has been the party with an anti-laborist nature of New Zealand, gained very much in a short space only to find a victim to the inevitable betrayal of its anti-labor partner and in the end exchanged its proud position from being the most progressive, to becoming the most reactionary of all English speaking nations.

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Shots At The Enemy

By BERNARD H. SMITH

Cooperation is the spirit of the age. It is the mission of the socialist party to organize this spirit into a political party.

The Rockefeller Foundation is going to help Colorado which has not yet arrived at a state of mental development where it is able to help itself.

Those who like socialist reading in greater volume should send \$5 for the Sunday Call. It is a good investment.

When a fight is made on socialism in the name of religion you can look for a material interest back of the attack.

The progressive party is one of the most picturesque orphans of the times.

It is now up to the socialist party to show that it is big enough to get Pat Quinlan out of jail.

Albert Sudeman says the rich must pay the debts of the war. Not while the poor are such cheerful burden bearers.

The ruling powers are abolishing the liquor traffic. It is now up to the ruled to abolish war.

If we hurry socialism along the present struggle in Europe will be the last horrible debacle of capitalism.

Mexican leaders started the war in good faith but the blighting effect of capitalism is getting in its work on them.

Is the mental calibre of the American people properly gauged by those who are already starting a full dinner pail campaign for the purpose of putting plutocracy more firmly in power?

If you have a dollar that isn't working for a cause worthy of a man's efforts, the ultimate purpose of Socialism will be hastened by a powerful press. By all means THE COMRADES SHOULD ANSWER THIS CALL.

Mary Fink, Idaho: "I want to help the good work along. Send me 4 sub-cards."

M. A. Hedden, Michigan: "Enclosed find \$1 to help helping wipe out the National debt."

John Mosher, Indiana: "I hope the debt will be wiped out in the near future and that the circulation of The American Socialist will not only demand but force respect from the powers that be to the tolling millions because of its greatness. Here is my dollar."

W. E. Spaulding, Illinois: "I wish to see Socialism grow. Here is my dollar."

Wm. E. Rowlands, Pennsylvania: "Here is my little mite in the shape of a money order for \$1 for which please send me cards. I am not using the sub-blank because I am going to give a copy to a HENRY DUBB to get him on the right road to freedom."

Harry Childen, Missouri: "Enclosed find \$1 as an investment and will promise to turn it over 12 times during the year. Can any of the crusaders figure the actual gain?"

L. Kerber, Pennsylvania: "Enclosed find check for \$5 for 50 cards, 5 months' subscription. This is the answer to your recent call."

J. M. Woodcock, Nebraska: "The American Socialist is the best Socialist paper published in the United States."

James Bailey, Tennessee: "Here is my dollar on that debt."

James McNulty of Illinois: "It is easy to find a dollar for American Socialist sub-cards. You can always find a dollar."

James L. Falketh of Nevada: "No premium is expected. The pleasure of doing what little I can to help liquidate the party indebtedness and make the party organ a power for Socialism is ample reward."

L. N. Thompson of Missouri: "Enclosed find \$1. I am an American Socialist Volunteer

"YE ARE THE SALT OF THE EARTH"

By JOSEPHINE CONGER-KANEKO

THE platform of the Socialist Party never in its history meant so much to society as it means today. In a nutshell this platform is—*the abolition of the capitalist system and the establishment of a new system of collective ownership of the means of production and distribution and the abolition of the profit system.*

Today all Europe is embroiled in a senseless war, the logical result of two things—
Private ownership in the necessities of life—
The profit system.

Until these are abolished the incentive to war will exist. So long as the incentive exists there is grave danger that war itself cannot be abolished. Precedent proves that it will hardly be abolished through an appeal to sentiment. This fact is emphasized now by the refusal of the Chicago Woman's Club to endorse the Jane Addams' Peace Society, with its slogan of "Peace at Any Price."

If there is any body of persons on earth who should stand for peace, from the sentimental standpoint, it is women. When a large and supposedly enlightened group of these refuse, we cannot expect that any great numbers of men will follow the peace flag, especially under the pressure of powerful interests to do otherwise.

It is the economic pressure, then, which is the scientific process behind the present system, which must be dealt with in settling the war problem. In other words, war is a natural, possibly an unavoidable, result of the capitalist system. The best propaganda against war is the socializing of the industrial processes.

To carry on an educational campaign for world peace, we must carry on an educational campaign for the national and international solidarity of the working class.

This does not mean that we may not work with peace societies; but it does mean that, in such work, as in every other point of contact with progressive movements, we must push the Socialist program, which offers the only known solution for war.

Appeals, personal and collective, cannot be made too strongly to American Socialists at this time to stand by their colors, and, with determination such as has never been known before, to spread the propaganda of Socialism. When the hour is darkest with actual and threatened horrors, is not the time to rent on our arms. Let us remember that it is always darkest just before the dawn, and that the dawn will break, clear and bright, unless the forces which mark its coming cease to operate! Ye are the salt of the earth, but if the salt shall lose its savor, where- with shall the nations be saved?

Certainly, the platform of the Socialist Party never in its history meant so much to society as it means today!

It is reported from Dayton that the National Cash Register, an open shop concern, cut wages 10 per cent. The expense of fighting the case brought against the "Cash" by the U. S. government for alleged viola-

tion of the Sherman anti-trust law had to be borne by somebody. It couldn't be expected that John H. Patterson and other patriots who have been made multi-millionaires by their "free and independent" would put up the coin.

Biggest Gun Ever Fired!

THE biggest gun ever fired against the policy of the American Federation of Labor, the policy known as "rewarding our friends and punishing our enemies," has been set off by ROBERT HUNTER in his book

Labor in Politics

just published by the National Office of the Socialist Party.

This book marshals an array of facts which leaves Mr. Gompers not a leg to stand on.

It shows that the United States of America is today the most backward of all great nations:

- In laws protecting the life and health of the workers,
- In social legislation for the benefit of the people,
- In civic purity and improvement,
- In the ownership of public utilities,
- In the building of the common wealth.

It quotes Mr. Gompers himself as saying that the United States "is no less than two decades behind many of the European countries in the protection of the life, health and limb of the workers."

It proves absolutely that the political policy of the American Federation of Labor is responsible for all this.

It shows that this policy has corrupted many of the leaders and the rank and file of the labor movement, has robbed labor of some of its ablest men and has made the organized labor movement the laughing stock, the football, and the tool of the Manufacturers' Association and its politician henchmen.

Says Mr. Hunter:

"It will be remembered that David M. Parry, one of the bitterest enemies of the labor movement, sought, in 1908, to make James E. Watson Governor of Indiana. He was a notorious tool of the manufacturers who had, in Congress and elsewhere, been one of their paid agents. It was natural and necessary that he should be fought by A. F. of L. and M. Gompers and his friends went into the state to defeat Watson.

"Although there are tens of thousands of union men in Indiana, all that the manufacturers needed to do in order to counteract the efforts of Mr. Gompers and the work of several of his ablest assistants was to import Martin Mulhall. The story of his work is now fully told. Martin began to corrupt the labor movement. He immediately employed a hundred or more trade union leaders, and on a few nights before election perhaps the most incredible sight this world ever saw occurred in

Indianapolis when an immense torch-light procession of workmen, trade unionists and others, marched to the music of Martin and sang Hallelujahs for Jim Watson. Parry stood back of the scenes and must have been enormously amused as he watched thirty thousand workmen marching for the manufacturers. Many of these workmen were enthusiastic trade unionists who thought they were fighting for industrial freedom, but, by some curious logic like that of Mr. Gompers, they were convinced that they could only fight Parry by starving themselves for months upon a strike. They had declared war on the manufacturers, their association, their agents, their spies, their blackmailers, and their corruptionists, in their unions, yet here they were marching in politics, side by side with David.

"Lighted by the torches of the manufacturers, lined up by the marshals of the manufacturers, they voted, like so many abject slaves, for the most miserable lackey ever owned by the manufacturers. Is it possible in any other country of the world to see a sight like that?"

This is the book you have been looking for. It is fair, just and moderate in tone, but it will SHATTER LIKE DYNA-

MITE all the objections of the conservative labor unionist.

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CALL FOR NATION-WIDE ACTION FOR RED WEEK

THE CALL for nation-wide action for Red Week, May 1-8, is the same as that of the 6,000 locals of the Socialist Party, and to the Socialist and labor press of the United States for publication, is as follows:

There has never been a time within the memory of man when Socialism was more badly needed than it is today.

As a result of the reign of capitalism, half the world is at war. Death, disease and destitution cover the face of Europe. The vilest human passions are unleashed.

In our own country, several million men are unemployed. The cost of living is rising. The greed for profits on the part of the American capitalists is prolonging the European horror and is bringing us close to the abyss of war. The capitalist class and the capitalist newspapers are working diligently for an increase in the army and navy. Two of our comrades, Fred Holt and Pat Quinlan, are in jail because of their faithfulness to the cause of labor.

The first week in May is RED WEEK — the week set apart by the National Committee for special activity in behalf of Socialism. Let us make this week memorable in the annals of the party by virtue of the results achieved.

Capitalism is ravishing and destroying; let us EDUCATE and BUILD.

We suggest the following program for RED WEEK and devoutly hope that it will be carried out.

1. MAKE A SPECIAL CAMPAIGN FOR MEMBERS.

2. Aim to cover your community with literature at least once during the week. We are enclosing an order blank giving special low prices on leaflets and pamphlets.

3. Have your local send in \$1 for 4 sub-cards to THE AMERICAN SOCIALIST to help in the great campaign the paper is now making. But very few locals have thus far heeded the special appeal sent to them by the Circulation Manager of the American Socialist. Those that have not yet responded should do so at once. Those that have already responded, should consider whether it is possible for them to take another \$1 worth of sub-cards, or even \$5 worth.

4. Prepare for the campaign of 1916 by having your local at once consider the Lecture Course of three speakers which is to take place this fall. This matter should not be delayed. The three speakers can fill at the most 150 dates, and the locals that send in their contracts after that many dates have been received are bound to be disappointed. We enclose another copy of the contract.

COMRADES, IF SOCIALISM IS WORTH HAVING, IT IS WORTH WORKING FOR, AND WE RELY ON IT THAT DURING RED WEEK ESPECIALLY, YOU WILL GIVE YOUR FULL MEASURE OF SERVICE TO THE CAUSE.

Letters from "American Socialist" Readers

STATE SOVEREIGNTY.

Lately, I have found your letter column quite interesting and while I haven't any original ideas for it I am taking the liberty to elaborate on some of the suggestions gleaned therein.

That idea of our organization laboring along the antiquated plan of "state sovereignty" is one worthy of consideration. "We are international" is the vein of our propaganda and yet we find ourselves patterning our organization in almost every detail to our capitalist government. Now this would not be so bad, perhaps, if we were not always financially embarrassed by being short of funds it would seem that our best interest lies in perfecting an organization less expensive than the present one. As was said by a former writer in these columns half a dozen clerks from the national office could do all the work now done by our various state secretaries at a tremendous saving to the party. I have not figured it out but I know just what these various state organizations cost so will make a very conservative estimate. There are at least twenty state secretaries drawing no less than \$50 per month. That means \$1,000 monthly being paid in salaries and expenses of rent and other items. This rent and other items would almost if not wholly pay the salaries of enough clerks in the national office to sell due stamps, supplies, etc., leaving a large balance to go into the work of education and agitation, or to look at it in another way in five months we could lift the debt of the national office.

It is a real example of competition to see a speaker going up the east line of a state under one state organization and then practically retracing his steps, only going down the west side of the line under the auspices of another "sovereign" state. Organization work directed from the national office would be far more effective and less expensive than the present plan of state autonomy. It would be necessary, perhaps, to maintain a State Executive committee of some description to attend to the political affairs of the party as prescribed by law but it could draw its expense money from the department of the National Office having the particular state in charge and if state conventions could be found to be an absolute necessity under the new organization delegate mileage could be paid from the same source.

It is much better, I think, to have great central machine. Perhaps you are correct for as long as we live under the capitalist system there will always be that incentive for machines and cliques to spread. Better have one big machine to draw our united attention than to have forty little machines to divide that attention. Then where is that real you like to tell the other fellow about?

WILBUR SHERON, Marion, Ind.

CORRECTING "THE PEOPLE."

In an article that appeared in the Nov. 21st issue of the Weekly People, the official organ of the Socialist Labor Party, they charge that I, as a candidate for governor on the Socialist ticket in New Hampshire in the last campaign, had endorsed Democratic congressional and sena-

torial for its hypocrisy and false promises of friendship for Labor. The night before election I made several addresses in Manchester, and I noticed several Socialist Labor Party men in the audience. They heard me assail these very men I am accused of endorsing. And yet some of these same men, no doubt, saw me in the "People's" and endorsed me for their wonderful "exposure."

Here is an example of the veracity of the "People." They charge me with having urged the voters to cast their ballots for the Democrat Senator Hollis. How could I urge them to vote for someone who was not a candidate for office, for Mr. Hollis was elected senator two years ago and has four years more to serve. Amusing, is it not? They also have E. L. Nutting, President of the State Federation, down as a member of the Socialist Party. To cap the climax they have it that I toured the state and urged the voters to vote for me personally. The only way to answer this charge is to apply that short and ugly word that Teddy Roosevelt made famous. JOHN P. BURKE, State Secretary of New Hampshire.

ABOUT THE NEW IDEA.

In The American Socialist of March 27, you had an article headed "New Idea," which to my mind should be considered by every Socialist. Only three weeks ago I told the comrades of Oklahoma City that I believed my political enemy was my economic enemy and that we should spend our money so far as possible with our comrades.

G. E. Wilson, Socialist state senator, Oklahoma.

Why The Dollar Is Shrinking.

A Study in the High Cost of Living. By Irving Fisher. Published by The Macmillan Company. 1914. Cloth, 225 pp. \$1.25 net.

The purpose of this little book is to explain as clearly and briefly as possible the reasons why a dollar will not go as far as it did ten or fifteen years ago and why in general

AMONG BOOKS

"Party Government in the United States of America." By William Milligan Sloane. Harper & Brothers, New York. 1914. Cloth, 483 pp. \$1.00 net.

In view of the present nonpartisan craze in this country, a study of the party that political parties have played and an exposition of political party tendencies. Among other things it deals with the tariff, slavery question, party machinery, platforms, conventions, interstate commerce, the beginnings of socialism, etc.

"Why The Dollar Is Shrinking." A Study in the High Cost of Living. By Irving Fisher. Published by The Macmillan Company. 1914. Cloth, 225 pp. \$1.25 net.

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A Socialist member of the Russian Parliament, named Mankow, has been expelled from the Socialist party because he voted for the war credits.

SPECIAL — Remember Calumet. Ludlow Socialist Party card cases. See advertisement.

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